Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-92-035 *21 February 1992*

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Cuba

Havana radio reports that "the sentence in Case No. 3 of 1992 " against defendants Luis Miguel Almeida Perez and Rene Salmeron was carried out on 19 February. The two men were sentenced to death for their involvement in the Tarara Nautical Base incident on 9 January.

Havana radio reports reaction to the refusal to allow Cuba to join the Lome Convention. Cuban Economist Luis Kardet called the refusal "discriminatory," and added that Cuba "has every right to join."

Mexico

The NOTIMEX news agency carries a denial by Pemex "that it will send a shipment of crude oil to Cuba to be refined and then returned." According to the NOTIMEX report, President Fidel Castro's government "opened its refinery to Latin American countries in exchange for oil." Pemex commercial director Javier Jimenez Espriu also said that "Mexican oil will not enter into the negotiations related to the Free Trade Agreement with the United States and Canada."

Chile

"The governments of Russia and Chile agreed today to adopt the necessary measures to provide adequate medical care to former GDR President Erich Honecker," Santiago radio reports. A Madrid EFE report says President Aylwin "denied today that he sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltin to intercede" in Honecker's case. It quotes Aylwin as noting the need to consider the possibility for "Honecker to travel to Chile, not for asylum, but to visit his family."

Brazil

Brasilia radio reports on U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney's visit and his meeting with President Collor and military ministers. "Cheney has said that the United States is satisfied with Brazilian plans not to use nuclear technology to manufacture atomic weapons" and "is pleased with the Brazilian decision to reduce its missile exports." The report adds that Cheney referred to the involvement of the Armed Forces in the fight against drugs; however, the Brazilian Army chief of staff is cited as saying, "It is improbable that the Brazilian Armed Forces will join in a direct antidrug fight because, constitutionally, it is a Federal Police task and the Armed Forces have no way of financing it."

Guatemala

Guatemala City TV reports that five government delegates departed for Mexico to participate in talks with the URNG. Delegation chief and Presidency Secretary General Manuel Conde Orellana told reporters that "what Guatemala needs at this time is peace and reconciliation" and that it can "do without opening old wounds." He added that the signing of a peace agreement with the URNG is not an "illusion."

Aristide Requests Tougher Measures Against Haiti

FL2002182692 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has asked European countries to deny visas to officials of the de facto government that controls the brother country of Haiti. He said the measure would prevent Joseph Nerette's government from attaining international recognition.

Aristide also asked the representatives at the Lome meeting to strengthen the embargo declared by the OAS against the de facto government. The deposed leader believes that subjecting Nerette's government to a more severe isolation would speed Haiti's return to constitutional order. Jean-Bertrand Aristide said the measures against the de facto Haitian Government should be strengthened because so far the embargo has not met the objectives for which it was created.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide spoke about other issues regarding the Haitian crisis during his speech to the Lome assembly, which has been meeting for the last few days in the Dominican Republic and is scheduled to conclude on Friday.

Lome Convention Countries End Deliberations

FL2102125292 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1140 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The joint assembly of the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries of the Lome Convention have wrapped up final deliberations on trade and development in the Dominican Republic. The joint assembly also considered the impact of European Community's unification and on the member countries of the Lome Convention. The main emphasis of the joint assembly was to study the programs of the Fourth Lome Convention covering the decade from 1990 to the year 2000, which is designed to benefit developing countries of the Caribbean, Africa, and the Pacific.

Cuba

Sentences Carried Out in Tarara Base Murders

FL2002185892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1810 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] On 19 February the sentences in Case No. 3 of 1992, ratified by the Chamber for Crimes Against State Security of the Havana City Provincial Court, were carried out against defendants Luis Miguel Almeida Perez and Rene Salmeron Mendoza.

The two men were the principal instigators of the treacherous and abominable murders of the four Interior Ministry soldiers at the Tarara Nautical Base last 9 January.

The sentence was ratified by the Supreme Court in accordance with procedures outlined in our laws.

Lome Convention Rejection Deemed 'Discriminatory'

PA2002030792 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The refusal to allow Cuba to join the Lome Convention, which coordinates European cooperation with 66 African, Caribbean, and Pacific Basin countries, is like closing the door on the rest of Latin America, it was reported in Havana by national and Caribbean economists.

Eduardo Clinher, vice president of the Association of Caribbean Economists, told PRENSA LATINA that the measure implemented at the Lome Convention meeting now under way in the Dominican Republic is the result of an international reactionary campaign led by the United States.

Likewise, Luis Kardet, president of the Association of Cuban Economists, said the refusal represents a discriminatory policy against the Caribbean island, which meets the economic and geographic conditions for admission to the organization and has every right to join.

The Lome Convention was founded in February 1975 to regulate trade and cooperation between the EEC and Third World countries.

Roa Kouri Rejects Human Rights Report

FL2002140692 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Cuba has rejected the report by Rafael Rivas Posada, the so-called special representative, on the human rights situation on the island. His appointment is considered null and void, illegal, and lacking political and moral validity.

Regarding this matter, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri, in his speech to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, very clearly stated his rejection of any attempt to impose discriminatory treatment on Cuba that does not reflect the real situation.

Roa Kouri emphasized that Cuba will continue to denounce the spurious and illegitimate nature of any decision imposed by the United States, in pursuing their irrational political vendetta against Cuba, on the international community. He reiterated that Cuba cannot accept the imposition of a special representative and stressed that the Cuban revolution is not, nor does it consider itself to be, on trial at the Geneva meeting. He added that the reports that may be presented to the Commission, by acquaintances and other less reputable persons, will not change our principled position one iota.

Roa Kouri made his comments following the report by Rafael Rivas Posada, the so-called special representative, on his version of the Cuban situation, which was based on sources not living in Cuba and organizations that have not visited the country.

Roa Kouri denounced the report as biased because it contains the testimonies of priests Miguel Aloredo and Luis Zune Garey, who were imprisoned in Cuba; the former for hiding a murderer and the latter for smuggling people from the CIA into the country.

Castro Discusses Socialism With PRC Delegation

FL2002131192 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro has met with He Chunlin, deputy secretary general of the State Council and president of the Chinese delegation to the Fourth Session of the Mixed Commission for Economic and Trade Relations. During the friendly and cordial meeting, both leaders participated in a comprehensive exchange of opinions and experiences about the development of socialism in their respective countries and stressed the strength of friendship and cooperation ties between the two peoples.

Castro Meets With Paris Book Union Delegation

FL1702202392 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has held a fraternal meeting with leaders of the Paris Book Union delegation, which recently donated a large amount of paper, ink, chemicals, and other needed raw materials to the Cuban printing industry.

During the meeting held at the Cuban Workers Federation's [CTC] hotel, Fidel pointed out that now we need more than ever this display of solidarity. He explained that during the 33 years he has lived in the Cuban revolution, he has extended signs of internationalism to brother countries that needed it.

The top revolutionary leader, in the name of all Cubans and by way of the union leaders, thanked the auxiliary

workers of the Paris Book Union for their gesture of solidarity. He said this delegations was one of the first to arrive in Cuba. He also fraternally recognized the French Communist Party, the General Confederation of Labor, the French working class, and other institutions for their extensive participation in the plan; especially cartoonist (George Volensky), who sponsored the "A Boat for Cuba" campaign. Fidel sent him a fraternal greeting as (Volensky) had to return to France yesterday.

During the meeting, our commander in chief was interested in learning the details of the work done by the Parisian union members in collecting the important donation sent to Cuba. He also inquired about the technical advancements of the French printing industry, the conditions of professional supervision in this field, and the social security benefits the workers receive.

Also present at the meeting were Carlos Lage, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo; (Francisco Dural), Central Committee member [title as heard]; Joaquin Bernal Camero, member of the National CTC Secretariat; and Augustin Delgado, secretary general of operations of the Culture Workers Union.

Castro Speaks at Academy of Sciences Conference

FL2102034892 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Excerpts] At this moment, the ceremony commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Cuban Academy of Sciences is being held at the Convention Center. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Rosa Elena Simeon, the president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, are presiding over the event, which began with a cultural gathering. [passage omitted]

Prominent scientists and research center representatives, who exchanged opinions on the scientific policies of Latin America and the Caribbean during the last three days, were also present at the event.

[Begin Castro recording] If we resist, we will develop, because no one can stop the momentum of our scientific research centers and the results that they are achieving. No one can stop the results of all these minds working in coordination and closely united. [end recording]

As Fidel summarized the value of scientific and technological development in our country, he said that it is inevitable to think of what it was like 30 years ago. As Fidel has said from the beginning, the vision of the Cuban revolution with respect to scientific policies is what allows us to confirm that the preservation of our independence primarily depends on science and technology.

Receives Diploma, Coin

FL2102034692 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report by Mariela Diaz on the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The closing session of the ceremony to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Cuban Academy of Sciences is being held in the Convention Center. Ismael Clark, vice president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, has just given Commander in Chief Fidel Castro the diploma of founder of the Academy and the 30th anniversary commemorative coin. The coin is also being given to a group of scientists and researchers representing the most outstanding workers. Among those receiving the award are founders of the academy, biotechnology workers, and others who have carried out innovative research concerning fungi used as biological fertilizers, workers from the Center for Production of Laboratory Animals, and workers from the Finlay Institute and the National Center for Livestock Health.

The Academy of Sciences 30th anniversary commemorative coin is given to scientists and workers to recognize their daily work and important efforts. The same award has been given to a Pioneer who is a member of the Small Scientists group to which the academy provides guidance.

The director of the (INCA) University in Colombia, Mrs. Leonor Garcia de Andrade, is now making a speech.

Sciences Academy President on U.S. Blockade

PA2002163992 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Interview with Rosa Elena Simeon, president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, by Susana del Calvo; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Del Calvo] In the field of science, what does the blockade against Cuba entail and how does it work?

[Simeon] The blockade affects science in many ways. The effects range from U.S. scientists, who used to maintain contacts with Cuban scientists, being unexpectedly told they could not exchange scientific information with Cuba, to Cuban scientists being denied visas to attend international congresses on U.S. territory, to our being unable to obtain U.S. magazines directly and having to acquire them in other countries.

For us the blockade is a reality we have been experiencing for the past 30 years. In all fairness, we must admit that this does not mean we have not been able to collaborate with U.S. scientists. For us the blockade certainly means that to achieve our goals we have to try much harder than other countries that do not face these unjust and absurd restrictions, imposed by a country with great technological power like the United States against a small country that is just now beginning to secure technology through its scientists effort and dedication.

I believe our achievements, of which we are very proud, are the result of our determination to move forward despite the blockade we have experienced directly for the past 30 years.

On occasion we have been able to overcome obstacles but the cost has been high. We have at times had to pay two or three times the price of a magazine because we were not allowed to buy it directly.

What can a scientific magazine stand for? What kind of humane message does this deliver? How can they demand respect for human rights when such magazines perhaps could report on ways to save a few Cuban lives?

We can tell you with satisfaction that despite the blockade our small and underdeveloped country has been able to find ways to reach a level of development in the field of scientific research that fills us with pride.

Minister Castillo on Telecommunication Facilities

FL2002234092 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] With the start-up of three ground stations for satellite communications and two digital centers for international service, Cuba has made its telephone traffic independent from mandatory transit through the United States. Manuel Castillo, Cuban minister of communications, made these comments at the inauguration of the first international workshop on telecommunications and information, which will be held today and tomorrow at the Convention Center.

Castillo said the application of scientific and technical developments in this country have changed the situation that was inherited in 1959 through the introduction of advanced technologies in telecommunications and information that are suited to our situation. Today Cuba has a powerful long-distance infrastructure that is capable of handling traffic containing voice, video, and image information between the capital and the rest of the country.

Nuclear Affairs Office Inaugurated in Camaguey

FL2002144892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Atomic Energy Commission, has inaugurated a local office of the Executive Secretariat for Nuclear Affairs in Camaguey. Accompanied by Lazaro Vazquez, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Camaguey, Castro Diaz-Balart toured the center, which has a very modest structure. The laboratories and specialists of the center will serve the provinces of Ciego de Avila, Camaguey, and Las Tunas.

Camaguey Reports Success in Vigilance Exercise

FL2002234492 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2047 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] One week after the beginning of the second exercise to test and improve the Unified Vigilance and Protection System, the results have been positive, according to Communist Party of Cuba leaders in Camaguey. The operational ability of the police force has increased and crime has declined. In addition, 10 fugitives from the law have been arrested. All this is a response to the activation of the aforementioned system. Violent crimes have been decreased, alhough the theft and slaughter of cattle has remained at the same level. That indicates a need to improve rural vigilance.

The second practice and testing of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System in Camaguey has demonstrated its effectiveness in detecting problems and finding new factors that will strengthen public order, social tranquillity, and crime prevention.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Meets Aristide, Lome Representatives

FL2002184292 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer met last night with deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at his office in the National Palace. Jean-Bertrand Aristide arrived at the National Palace at 2100 under strict security measures and entered Balaguer's office in the company of Guy Alexander, Haitian ambassador to the Dominican Republic; Jose Osvaldo Leger, president of the Dominican Senate; and officials of the ECC, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific countries. The meeting between Balaguer and Aristide lasted one hour and 15 minutes. Upon leaving Balaguer's office, the deposed Haitian President characterized the meeting as fruitful and friendly and added in reply to reporter's questions: All that is necessary is to look at my face, to look at my smile, to see the happiness that we have shared in this historic meeting with President Dr. Joaquin Balaguer.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide arrived yesterday in the Dominican Republic to attend the fourth meeting of the countries that comprise the Lome Convention.

Haiti

Crisis Talks To Resume in Washington 22 Feb

FL2002203992 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The resumption of negotiations on the crisis will take place on 22 February in Washington under the auspices of the OAS. Everything is now in place for the resumption of talks to find a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis. The first talks will take place in the American capital. Around the negotiation table will be deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Prime Minister-Designate Rene Theodore, several Haitian legislators, and the OAS mediator. Jean Paul Tardif, the OAS representative in Haiti, has confirmed the news to our reporter.

[Begin Tardif recording] Chamber President Dr. Alexandre Medard, [words indistinct] to give him the invitation to the meeting in Washington on 22 and 23 February. The meeting is aimed at [words indistinct] the crisis, reaching an agreement. President Aristide, together with his colleagues, will participate in the meeting. Also present will be Prime Minister-Designate Theodore, the Chamber president, and the Senate president, both of whom will be accompanied by two colleagues. [end recording]

Further on Talks

FL2002213992 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A total of three delegations should leave Port-au-Prince either today and tomorrow for the resumption of the OAS-sponsored talks. Prime Minister-Designate Rene Theodore will travel today with two of his advisers, Wilner Dessources and National Reconstruction Movement Senator Rony Mondestin. Tomorrow Rene Theodore will talk with ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Washington.

Another delegation composed of representatives of the parties that supported the Aristide's candidacy for the presidency will also leave today. They will meet with Father Aristide within the framework of these discussions.

The National Assembly representatives will leave Haiti on Friday. Meetings with Father Aristide are scheduled for 21 and 22 February. The Haitian National Assembly will be represented by Senate Chairman Dejean Belizaire and his colleagues Thomas Eddy Dupiton and Jean-Robert Martinez. The Chamber of Deputies will be represented by President Alexandre Medard and parliamentarians Joseph Lambert and Duly Brutus.

The OAS coordinator on Haiti, Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, will attend these inter-Haitian meetings. It is possible that OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares will be present. The inter-American organization terms this new round of negotiations on the Haitian crisis as very important. Let us listen to Laurent Paul Tardif, the representative of the OAS in Port-au-Prince.

[Begin Tardif recording] Actually, there will be meetings on 22 and 23 February in Washington. The delegations will leave on either 20 or 21 February so they will be there early on 22 February. The meetings will take place at OAS headquarters near the White House in Washington. These meetings are considered very important because they should allow all participants—who I believe are concerned with a solution to this crisis—to reach an agreement and to resolve this crisis that has lasted too long by nearly everyone's standards. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The OAS official in Haiti hopes these discussions will prove fruitful. Laurent Paul Tardif hopes these talks will result in a solution that will satisfy everyone.

Deputy Interviewed on Talks

FL2002220492 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1100 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent Jean-Marie Ferari; italicized passages are in French—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ferari] [passage omitted] The parliamentary delegation that will travel to Washington on 22 February met on 19 February to debate the agreement protocol that they must agree on with the current executive in accordance with the Senate's 13 February resolution. One of the parliamentarians who will be part of the delegation traveling to Washington, Deputy Joseph Lambert, gives us more details:

[Lambert] *The parliamentary delegation that will travel to Washington to continue the talks initiated under OAS auspices last October* seriously worked on an agreement protocol, and that agreement protocol will be the subject of our discussions with the concerned parties. What does that mean for me as a deputy? It was said two days ago that the Chamber of Deputies would primarily have an observer status. I support that. Why? Because the Chamber of Deputies chiefly makes recommendations in which it requires a number of guarantees from the prime minister-designate.

We have now reached a new phase; a new phase because it is not the Chamber of Deputies that will make recommendations to a prime minister-designate, but (?it will be) primarily [pauses]—how can I say it?—an agreement protocol in which the Haitian National Assembly will commit itself within the scope of the negotiations. In essence, that is the work we performed today, and it was done to enhance the evolution of the situation within the realm of our work at the National Assembly. *This is my personal opinion.* It binds me. It does not limit the Crisis Committee, the Chamber of Deputies, or the National Assembly.

[Ferari] However, Deputy Lambert made us understand the dilemma that the situation presents. According to Deputy Lambert, Jean-Bertrand Aristide is the legitimate president, and President Nerette is the constitutional president, an act of the National Assembly. So the one who was elected on 16 December cannot choose a new prime minister before being reinstated in his previous post by the National Assembly. Otherwise, it is President Nerette who has the constitutional power to choose a prime minister. [passage omitted]

Dominican Ambassador Advocates Lifting Embargo

FL2002200392 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The Dominican ambassador to Haiti today stated that the economic embargo imposed by the OAS against Haiti must be lifted. The embargo, which has been in effect for four months, is useless. The ambassador said the embargo was strangling and destroying the Haitian people and effecting the nation's structures. He believes

this will have serious repercussions on the Dominican Republic's economy. Jose del Carmen Acosta Carasco insisted on continuing or increasing humanitarian aid to the Haitian people despite the maintenance of the embargo. Ambassador Acosta said that relations between the Dominican Republic and Haiti are not good due to political circumstances. The Dominican Government does not recognize the Haitian Government. He also stressed that, as a consequence of the embargo on Haiti, the commercial relations between the two countries are almost nonexistent. The Dominican diplomat made these statements in an interview with journalist Maria de los Angeles, a Voice of America colleague.

Following a conversation with President Joaquin Balaguer, Ambassador Acosta on Thursday in the Dominican National Palace insisted that the embargo had disastrous consequences on the country: due to a lack of cooking gas, 10,000 trees a day are being cut. The ecological damages are inestimable. The ambassador added that the embargo, instead of helping to find a solution, is intensifying Haitian nationalism.

After his conversation at the Dominican National Palace, Acosta Carasco also discussed the problems of duty-free zones after the coup that overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Acosta cited as an example the fact that many factories in the industrial zone have left the country, and as a result, about 100,000 people have lost their jobs.

The embargo is also destructive to social balance and political stability. The Dominican diplomat stated that the United States' decision to soften its position on the embargo was well received in the country, especially by the media. In his interview with Maria de los Angeles, the Dominican ambassador stated that the Dominican Republic was there to help and to prevent the Haitian people from being strangled in the difficult political moment they are now facing.

We think the economic embargo against Haiti was a cruel measure, an unjustified measure, which instead of creating a political climate for a solution to the Haitian crisis represents an obstacle to the crisis' situation, he said. He further stated that such a measure only made poor people poorer and rich people richer.

Ambassador Acosta Carasco also said the Dominican Republic totally rejects the embargo and military intervention in Haiti. We cannot even consider that, he said, because it is not a good thing. It will not be an intervention on our own territory [as heard]. He also said that the Haitian conflict is very deep with serious characteristics. Military intervention will not help this country find political harmony and stability and return to democracy. He added that respect for nations' self-determination was a fundamental precept within the OAS.

Ambassador Acosta Carasco again stated that the Haitian crisis has negative repercussions in the Dominican Republic. He cited the increase in Haitian migration to the Dominican Republic as one of the serious consequences. He also mentioned other aspects that many people have not considered and said that these aspects are serious for the Dominican economy.

Pemex Denies Plans To Send Oil to Cuba

PA2004231592 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2046 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Mexico City, 20 February (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) denied on 20 February that it will send a shipment of crude oil to Cuba to be refined and then returned, as was reported by the local media.

Javier Jimenez Espriu, commercial director of Pemex—a parastate company—denied that the Mexican Government is thinking of accepting a Cuban invitation to process oil at the Cienfuegos refinery, approximately 250 km from Havana.

Faced with a shortage of fuel on the island, President Fidel Castro's government opened its refinery to Latin American countries in exchange for oil, and it is currently negotiating with Colombia.

Participating in the working sessions on the economic consequences of the integration of international markets, the European Community, and the Free Trade Agreement, Jimenez Espriu reiterated that Mexican oil will not enter into the negotiations related to the free trade agreement with the United States of America and Canada.

Jimenez Espriu stated: "Legal and historical conditions prevent us from doing so." He additionally denied any possibility of privatizing Mexico's petrochemical industry.

Jimenez Espriu noted that the defense of national sovereignty and the attention paid to the nation's internal needs is precisely what has kept Mexico from joining OPEC.

Cooperation Agreements Signed With France

PA1902044092 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Report by Maritza Rivera]

[Text] Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana and French Foreign Affairs Secretary Alain Vivien signed a cooperation agreement in Mexico City on 18 February.

[Begin Solana recording] We see how trade and investment have grown, and growth will be much greater starting with these agreements. [end recording]

Solana said the agreement opens a new stage in relations between the countries. It will favor bilateral economic cooperation and encourage the exchange of technology and dialogue between French and Mexican cultures.

Thes agreement comprises political, economic, technical, scientific, administrative, cultural, educational, and sports exchanges. The agreement states the binational commission will be coordinated by the Mexican and French foreign secretariats, which will meet every two years on the dates and places previously agreed.

During his stay in Mexico, Vivien will lay the first stone at the site where the new French Embassy in Mexico is being built.

Present at the signing ceremony were French Ambassador to Mexico Alain Rouquie and Mexican Foreign Relations Under Secretary Andres Rosenthal, among others.

Defense Secretary Attends Army Day Celebration

PA2002041692 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Report by Phillip Bach in Mexico City]

[Text] The Mexican Army does not forget its historical pledges, and it reasserts its compliance with the laws and authorities of the Republic. Division General Antonio Riviello, national defense secretary, made that statement during a ceremony commemorating the Mexican Armed Forces' 79th anniversary.

The national defense secretary said the Mexican Army is an army of the people, both because of its historical origins and its social pledges, goals, and functions. He recognized the efforts of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to modernize the country with the participation of all social groups.

[Begin Riviello recording] We realize there is a new style of government, based on the people's participation in the assessment of national problems and the search for adequate solutions. [end recording]

Gen. Arturo Cardona, chief of the presidential staff, made a speech on behalf of the president of the Republic. He said the Mexican Army has aptly responded to each historical moment, putting its talent and dedication—even the lives of its men—at the service of the homeland.

[Begin Cardona recording] Our Army is being modernized so it can continue to efficiently fulfill its tasks. The Army changes its structures, improves equipment and weapons, and updates its plans for education and training to face the new challenges in a society that has decided to change with a renewed nationalism. [end recording]

The Army and Air Force day ceremony was attended by the secretaries of the Navy, government, urban development and ecology, health, communications and transportation, comptrollership, and tourism, as well as the attorney general of the Republic, the mayor of Mexico City, and several Army and Air Force officers and troops.

* Trafficker Links to Veracruz Government Claimed

92CA0094A Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 9 Dec 91 No 788 p 12

[Report by Homero Campa and Ricardo Rabelo]

[Text] Veracruz, Veracruz—Friends of Arturo Izquierdo Hebrard, whom the DEA has identified as a suspect in the organization of the drug-trafficking operation in Tlalixcoyan, now hold high posts in the Veracruz Government under Governor Dante Delgado Rannauro.

Victor Gardoqui Zurita, the current mayor of the port of Veracruz, was the administrator of the Camino Real ranch, which was owned by Izquierdo Hebrard during the first half of the 1980's.

The ranch, where cocaine and heroin were processed during the first half of the 1980's, became the refuge of the former chief of the Mexico City police, Arturo Durazo Moreno, Izquierdo Hebrard's brother-in-law, when the authorities were trying to apprehend him.

Izquierdo Hebrard sold the ranch to his partner, Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, the kingpin of the Guadalajara Cartel. The Camino Real is one of the seven ranches that the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic confiscated from Felix Gallardo in the state of Veracruz after his arrest in April 1989.

Gardoqui Zurita is also the cousin of former Defense Secretary Arevalo Gardoqui. During one of his visits to the state of Veracruz he introduced him to Felipe Lagunes, a strong man in the central region of the state and a partner of Izquierdo Hebrard.

Felipe Lagunes, a cousin of former Governor Agustin Acosta Lagunes, was kidnapped on 13 May 1989. His mutilated body, showing signs of torture, was found two days later. That same day, 15 May, after Felipe Lagunes's body was found, Arevalo Gardoqui and his cousin, Gardoqui Zurita, chatted with then Governor Acosta Lagunes. According to the local paper LA CRONICA, they met at 1415 at the La Parroquia Cafe. Their meeting lasted 15 minutes, and General Arevalo and his cousin afterwards went to express their condolences to Felipe's wife, Minerva Lagunes, in her home on Cristobal de Olid Street in the Virginia housing development.

When in 1984 Izquierdo Hebrard was accused of masterminding the murder of deputy and sugarcane-workers leader Roque Espinozo Foglia, Izquierdo fled Veracruz. His administrator, Gardoqui Zurita, published a spread in a newspaper arguing his innocence.

Gardoqui Zurita became mayor of Veracruz six months ago when the previous one, Guillermo Gonzalez Diaz, requested a leave of absence to run for deputy in the 11th district, whose seat is in this port. Gardoqui Zurita appointed Gustavo Souza Escamilla, Felipe Lagunes' legal representative, the city's director of tourism.

Gardoqui Zurita had previously been an aide in the Veracruz Coparmex [Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic] and director of expenditures at the Planning Secretariat, which is headed by Gerardo Poo Ulibarri, his friend and patron, who is also said to have ties with Izquierdo Hebrard.

Poo Ulibarri was the mayor of Veracruz from 1985 to 1988. He had close ties to the Cabrera Montoya brothers, Jesus, Roberto, and Manuel. Roberto married Poo Ulibarri's sister, and in 1985 a criminal suit 181/85 was begun against the Cabrera Montoya brothers on charges of smuggling electronic equipment.

Poo Ulibarri happens to own a chain of electronic-equipment stores called "Contino" and a chain of clothing stores called "La Galatea," where he was a clerk during his youth. He also owns the Puerto Bello Hotel, where Jorge Wittley and Guillermo Diestel Pasquel, who was married at the time to singer Manuella Torres, were arrested for drug possession and the illegal carrying of weapons. This fact was recorded in preliminary investigation 113/85, and criminal suit 143/985 was pursued against him.

Gardoqui Zurita, Poo Ulibarri, and Humberto Alessandrini, Veracruz's director of urban development, are members of the personal-improvement club called "Toastmasters." Gardoqui Zurita also regularly attends the meetings of the Foundation for Military Schools, which are held on the 13th of the month at the facilities in the 26th military zone. Among the civilian members of this association is Jorge Kayser Elias, whose son, of the same name, was arrested for drug possession and trafficking, according to case file 237/88 of the third court of federal jurisdiction. His official attorney is Pedro Garcia Reyes, but according to news reports his defense was begun by Poo Ulibarri's brother-in-law and the then assistant attorney general of the state, Gerardo Gil Ortiz.

Just two weeks ago, Jose Tejeda Cruz, an alderman in the Boca del Rio municipality and brother of local congressman and regional CROC [Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants] leader Tomas Tejeda Cruz, was accused of murdering a dancer at the "Marejada" nightclub, Lizbeth Coromoto Gonzalez Munoz, a Venezuelan citizen who had been living in the country illegally for three years. The facts were incorporated into preliminary investigation 4737/91. Jose Tejeda filed amparo 3184/91.

The case was put on ice, and he was acquitted.

* PRD's Cordova Surveys 'Exodus for Democracy'

92CA0080B Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 15 Jan 92 pp 1, 5

[Arnoldo Cordova Commentary: "A Lesson for the PRD"]

[Text] They walked more than 1,000 km in 50 days. They provided a civic forum in which all those who are struggling for democracy in our country could express their opinions and concerns. The "Exodus for Democracy" was not only a vehicle for pushing the specific demands of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) of Tabasco; it was offered to the entire country, including the groups in power, as a means to resolve in a

civilized and rational manner the conflicts that have arisen out of an incredibly stupid tradition of handling the struggle for power in Mexico. They fought, they persevered, and they triumphed. They did not ask for anyone's head; all they asked for was justice, and they got it. They were the exponents of a party that has been severely punished by the regime (the PRD), but they were able to speak to the citizenry, especially through the words of their young leader, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Their humble, difficult, and exhausting march was an expression of the aspiration that all of Mexico is beginning to adopt as its own: the cause of democracy.

The Exodus began so modestly that many thought it was merely an imitation—illogical, of course—of the march carried out by Dr. Salvador Nava, which lacked political resources and timing. But the march put on by our comrades from Tabasco very soon captured the attention of national public opinion, and at a time when, with year-end vacations, hardly anyone reads the newspaper or wants to think about the country's great problems. PRD members from other states, particularly those in Veracruz, saw in the Tabascans' effort a forum that was just right for presenting and processing their own demands. All is well that ends well, goes the old saying, and it can be said that the Exodus that began well ended better. It was not as flashy a show as Dr. Nava's, but it was fraught with meaning and messages that went straight to Mexicans' hearts. All of the national and local political forces involved in the democratization of Mexico followed the march with growing intensity. For example, when the marchers were still in Veracruz, the leadership of the National Action Party (PAN) issued an unfortunate statement trying to distance themselves from the PRD's exodus, and yet in the end they enthusiastically and justly lauded the civic effort of our comrades and expressed their unconditional support.

I would like, however, to emphasize that the most important thing was not the exemplary effort of the Tabascan PRD members in organizing and carrying out this tremendous effort, a 50-day march covering more than 1,000 km on foot. As meritorious as it was, the effort was just the silver platter on which they offered us what can and should be a realistic and reasonable method of engaging in politics. The forum they provided during their pilgrimage was used by anyone who had any complaint to make, and many people acted like cavemen who did not have the foggiest idea what the final objective of the Tabascan PRD members was, much less the way they wanted to conduct their great debate. Some of the national leaders of the PRD were unable to cast off that petty and backward tradition of complaining, and when they took advantage of that civic tribunal, rather than helping the Exodus, they appeared to want the project to go down in flames, no matter what the cost.

In contrast, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the young leader of the Tabascan PRD members, caused the demands to be presented in a style that should be a lesson to the PRD and the nation as a whole. He tolerated the impatient people who seized his forum. He had to play soul-healer to those who wanted to set fire to the country in retribution for the harm they had suffered. He tried to teach them the basic principles of the art of politics, which he has learned so well: making deals with one's adversary and getting him to agree to what one wants. He never challenged anyone to a duel to the death. He tried to be reasonable at all times, and above all, convincing. He never said his rivals should be sent to hell. He knew enough to demand justice for his cause, and no more. He also refrained from attacking the rabble-rousers in his own party. He tolerated them and ignored them. It was pathetic when, at the rally marking the culmination of the Exodus, in the main square [Zocalo] of the capital, while Lopez Obrador was giving his speech, some hairy beasts called out to him, "Be tougher! Be tougher!" when he was trying to explain his position and his demands to the nation.

From the first day of the march, Lopez Obrador, whose personal effort—and that alone—is responsible for the fact that the PRD is a political force in Tabasco, uttered these words, which became his motto throughout the 50 days of his civic action: "There is still time to fix things." He used that same phrase, when everything seemed about to end, to close his speech in the main square of Mexico City, and he repeated it whenever he had a chance to address the citizenry during the exhausting march into the heart of the republic. It was not a hope; it was a golden opportunity offered to his adversaries, whom he refused to call enemies. They responded positively to a reasonable and convincing speech.

When the march reached Mexico City, another young man who understands perfectly well what modern politics is all about, Manuel Camacho, head of the Department of the Federal District, decided to extend to the PRD march the protection of established institutions; he gave the PRD all the guarantees it needed and all the material support and security measures necessary to fulfill its objectives. At the end of the rally in the main square, General Tapia gave the marchers 800 blankets and enough food so that they would not have to suffer the inclemency of the Mexico City winter. Interior Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios, undoubtedly acting on precise orders from the president of the republic, quickly and expeditiously met the demands of the PRD members, and the day after the Exodus was over, Lopez Obrador was able to announce to his comrades that, without detriment to anyone and solely through their own efforts, the Tabascans of the PRD had triumphed.

How I wish that the PRD always engaged in this kind of politics, the politics of triumph and victory, without the need to leave behind piles of enemy bodies, instead of the politics of losing out of habit! The traditional losers, the small sectarians who take over the party's leadership bodies, must be very angry that this exemplary civic enterprise did not end in a holocaust. The PRD leaders in the Federal District deserve special mention. Led by Heberto Castillo, they made it possible for the authorities of the capital to provide coverage and for the

marchers to receive prompt and timely assistance. If anyone (including some of my former comrades) is still surprised that I remain a member of the PRD, I can cite this as one of the many reasons.

* Strong Support Found for Ejido Amendment

92CA0078A Mexico City NEXOS in Spanish No 169, Jan 92 pp 71-73

[Text]

Survey Corner: NEXOS and Public Opinion

Reforms of Article 27 of the Constitution

This past 7 November the president submitted to Congress a bill to reform Article 27 of the constitution, which primarily accords constitutional status to the ejido as a form of property and distinguishes between ejidos that have been awarded as human settlements and those that are productive assets for individual use. In its bill the Executive Branch proposed to end land redistribution by repealing all of the constitutional provisions upholding it; to allow ejido members to alienate their lands if they so wish; to facilitate the various forms of partnership between ejido members and investors by allowing corporations to own lands and invest in the countryside; to open up agriculture to foreign investment, and to retain the current limits on the various forms of small landholdings.

Is the broad consensus that the reform bill gained in the Chamber of Deputies matched by a similar consensus among the people? Professional Opinion conducted a poll for NEXOS in the country's six largest cities, inquiring into how much the people knew about and whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposed measures. The poll was taken from 23 to 27 November, and 3,500 questionnaires were handed out as follows: Mexico City Metropolitan Area, 1,000; Guadalajara, 500, Monterrey, 500; Tijuana 500, Tuxtla Gutierrez 500, and Merida 500. The aggregate findings were weighted in accordance with the relative size of each city. The sample represents the population of each city and, on the whole, close to 67 percent of the country's urban population.

The questionnaire was asked on the street, in accordance with the age and sex quotas for each city as reported in the demographic data from the National Institute of Statistics, Geography, and Informatics (INEGI) on the basis of the 1990 census. To prevent bias the pollsters took up positions in areas representative of the various socioeconomic levels and, except for the age and sex quotas, chose the respondents at random.

It should be emphasized that the survey pertains to the country's urban population and that owing to the importance of the issue a similar investigation ought to be conducted among rural dwellers.

Awareness of the Bill

In spite of the bill's unquestionable importance and its broad coverage in the mass media, at the time the poll was taken less than half of the respondents said spontaneously that they were aware of the changes proposed by the Executive Branch. The lack of awareness was higher than average in the cities of Guadalajara and Tijuana.

Property Rights and Ejido Members

People overwhelmingly expressed agreement with the idea of giving ejido members title to their parcels so that they can keep them as ejidos, turn them into small landholdings, or alienate them.

The respondents felt that this measure would improve conditions in the countryside and the status of peasant farmers. In Guadalajara, Merida, and Monterrey more people saw benefits in giving ejido members the freedom to choose whatever form of ownership they thought best. In the Mexico City Metropolitan Area, Tuxtla, and Tijuana fewer people felt this way, but they were still a majority.

At present ejido members cannot sell the lands they work. Would you be for or against giving them private title to these lands, in other words, so that they could sell or rent them if they wanted?

Response	Percent
For	65.8
Against	22.5
Not sure/no answer	11.5

And do you think that the situation of peasant farmers would be better or worse?

Response	Percent
Better	50.2
The same	18.7
Worse	20.6
Not sure/no answer	10.6

If the president's bill is passed, the ejido members will be able to convert their parcels into small landholdings. Do you think that this is good or bad for the peasant ejido members?

Response	Percent
Good	56.2
The same	15.3
Bad	15.6
Not sure/no answer	1.3

Minifundio [very small plot] and Latifundio [great estate]

In spite of the widespread support for giving the ejido members ownership, people fear that this could foster a concentration of land. However, when they were told that the new legislation will maintain limits on small landholdings, fewer thought that latifundios would be formed.

Do you think that if the ejido members can turn their parcels into small landholdings or sell them to whomever they want, there will be a concentration of landownership?

Response	Percent
Yes	62.3
No	19.9
Not sure/no answer	17.8

The proposed reform states that limits on small landholdings must be maintained. Even with this restriction, do you think that lands will become concentrated?

Response	Percent
Yes	49.6
No	26.9
Not sure/no answer	23.5

The reform seems designed to end the minifundio phenomenon. The respondents have not formed opinions on this. One-third think that the reforms will do away with minifundios; another third think that they will not, and the remaining third have no opinion.

An End to Land Redistribution

Land redistribution is unquestionably associated with values that are deeply rooted in Mexicans and is thus spontaneously supported by the majority of people. A majority of respondents (53.3 percent) voiced support for the continued redistribution of lands when asked about it without any qualifications or consideration of its side effects.

Do you think that land redistribution ought to continue or end?

Response	Percent
Ought to continue	53.3
Ought to end	26.8
Not sure	17.3
No answer	2.5

However, the respondents qualified or even changed their view when they were told certain things about the effects of redistribution policy on the security of land tenure (Some scholars assert that a continuation of land redistribution would make current landowners insecure in their property and thus that redistribution should end. Do you think that land redistribution does or does not make landowners insecure?) or when they voiced their opinions on it within the general context of changes in Article 27 (In his most recent government report President Salinas asserted that there are no longer any lands to be redistributed. Do you think that this is true or false?). When the respondents expressed their views on whether land redistribution created insecurity for landowners, one-third said it did, and therefore the percentage who supported an end to the redistribution policy was higher than for the previous question. This change of opinion was obvious in Monterrey, Tuxtla Gutierrez, and Guadalajara. Opinions did not change substantially in Tijuana and the Mexico City Metropolitan Area.

Looking at it this way, are you for or against an end to the land redistribution policy?

Response	Percent
For	41.9
Against	38.2
Not sure/no answer	19.0

Support for Measures

By and large, the population thought that the reform would have positive effects if approved (remember that the poll was taken before passage by the deputies). There was majority support in all cases, as people felt that the countryside would be better off as a result of the changes that the reforms will bring. A higher percentage felt this way in Merida, Monterrey, and Guadalajara. A lower percentage did in Tuxtla, the Mexico City Metropolitan Area, and Tijuana, but they still thought highly of the reforms.

Support was broader for the measures giving greater freedom of association to ejido members, keeping limits on small landholdings, and giving ejido members the right to alienate their lands. Support was weaker, though still in the majority, for the reform allowing foreign investment in agriculture.

* School of Economics Curricula Changes Announced

Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish
15 Jan 92 p 37

[Article by Francisco Parra]

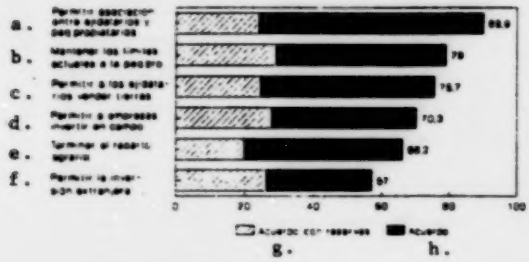
[Text] In order to adapt the teaching of economics to the changes that the world is undergoing and the challenges facing our country, the School of Economics of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) intends to modify its curricula and programs, announced the director of that school, Juan Pablo Arroyo Ortiz, yesterday.

He indicated that various forums will be held at the school to solicit opinions on the design of the new courses, and the results will be presented to the University Council. If approved, the changes will take effect in March.

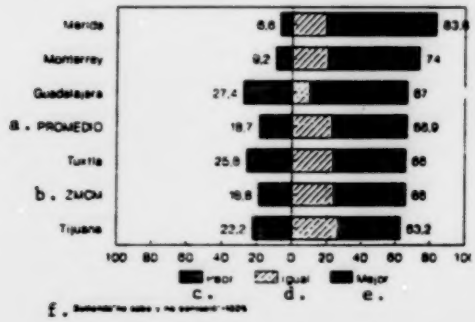
Juan Pablo Arroyo explained that the technical council of the School of Economics formed a committee of faculty and students to organize the discussion process that will lead to changes in the curriculum.

The purpose of appointing the committee was to open channels for members of the community to express their ideas, and thus to bring about a free-flowing exchange of opinions that will enrich everyone's points of view.

1. *¿Está usted de acuerdo (le parece bien, le gustan) o en desacuerdo (no le gustan) con estos cambios propuestos por Salinas?*



2. *Si se aprueban estas reformas, ¿cómo cree usted que será la situación del campo en México: mejor o peor?*



Key:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the changes that Salinas has proposed?
   a. Allow partnership between ejido members and small landowners
   b. Keep current limits on small landholdings
   c. Allow ejido members to sell lands
   d. Allow companies to invest in the countryside
   e. End land redistribution
   f. Allow foreign investment
   g. Agree with reservations
   h. Agree
2. If these reforms are passed, how do you think conditions in the countryside will be in Mexico: better or worse?
   a. Average
   b. Mexico City Metropolitan Area
   c. Worse
   d. Same
   e. Better
   f. Adding not sure and no answer yields 100 percent

The director of the School of Economics pointed out that the curriculum and programs have not been reformed since 1974. Over the past 18 years, various events have been sponsored by the school to develop initiatives for changing the way economics is taught at the UNAM, but because of the conditions under which the debate took place and the political circumstances, it was impossible to implement the proposals, said Arroyo Ortiz.

Since last year, after the University Congress was held, there has been a clear awareness among everyone at the school that it is impossible to leave course content as it is, the director of the School of Economics said.

In the professor's view, it is also clear that there is an urgent need to arrive at a compromise among all the theoretical-ideological positions in the institution to improve the education of the students. Juan Pablo Arroyo also explained the objective of the seminar to amend the curriculum and the academic organization of the School of Economics. He indicated that the seminar is designed to elicit a healthy, unbiased discussion, so that sincere proposals can be put forth and participants can reflect on the various aspects of the curriculum. In this manner, they can find points of agreement and look for ways to resolve their differences.

He explained that the seminar will have four phases. The first will cover the basic subjects of the curriculum in the economics major; during the second phase, specialists will read papers on the topic of Perspectives of Economic Thought and Changes in the Country's Economic Structure.

In the third phase of the seminar, agreements will be sought at the different levels of the curriculum, for which purpose working groups will be organized to deal with specific subjects.

El Salvador

ARENA Founder Roberto d'Aubuisson Dies

PA2002235992 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2347 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Roberto d'Aubuisson, former major in the Salvadoran Army, legislator, and founder of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, died on the afternoon of 20 February of cancer, according to a local radio station.

Radio station YSKL reported that D'Aubuisson, who had suffered liver and lung infections over the past 24 hours, died in a private hospital in San Salvador.

Unions 'Manipulate' Peasants in Land Seizures

PA2102001892 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Feb 92 p 51

[Text] Approximately 200 peasants—manipulated by ANTA [National Association of Agriculture and Livestock Workers] and the CTC [not further identified] leaders—arrived at Finca El Carmen, near Guazapa, and seized land in a threatening and violent manner.

Landowners have formally filed a complaint with the judicial authorities in Guazapa, stating that the seizure was violently carried out by peasants, who carried machetes and firearms. The peasants threatened people who were working there, telling them there would be reprisals against them and the landowners if the latter sought help from military and security corps in the area.

It was reported that some peasants were forced to participate in the action, and it was clear that they were afraid when they realized the magnitude of their crime. Nevertheless, those who instigated the action prompted the peasants to carry out their action by telling them that the same penalty would apply even if they withdrew from the farm, and by reminding them of the danger they and their respective families faced if they decided not to "cooperate in the seizure."

Judicial officials have stated that this is the second land seizure carried out in the area this week. The first took place at Hacienda Milingo, Suchitoto Jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department, where approximately 15 families -some members carrying weapons—seized land by force.

Deputy Air Force Commander on Force Reductions

PA2102003192 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 19 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Colonel Manfredo Koeningsberg, deputy commander of the Salvadoran Air Force, FAS, said on 18 February that the FAS will suffer no major troop reductions troops because "it was the corps that grew the least during the recently concluded armed conflict."

The military commander conceded that the FAS "will be slightly reduced" as a result of the agreements signed between the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in Mexico City, "but it will always be well organized."

Koeningsberg extolled the role played by FAS members when the FMLN stepped up its attacks on Armed Forces positions, adding that the FAS "favorably tipped the balance during the 1989 offensive so that we could come out well ahead. "He said that the FAS will engage in activities that directly benefit civilians during times of peace, including reforestation of different zones and fighting against the illegal use and abuse of drugs among young people by helping them participate in sports.

Koeningsberg, who participated in a ceremony to commemorate the ninth founding anniversary of the Paratroopers Battalion, which included sporting events and maneuvers by members of the battalion, referred to drugs and said that efforts will be made to reduce drug shipments to the United States.

"We realize that we have become a bridge, or are being used as a jumping board, for drug shipments to the United States, but we are prepared and have the means to try to reduce this criminal activity because it is a scourge and a calamity for Salvadoran youth and future generations," he said.

The official said that the military is working with the Central American Air Navigation Corporation at the Central American level to install radar on FAS aircraft so that it can be used to detect any flights that illegally enter Salvadoran territory.

Guatemala

Delegation Departs For Talks With URNG

PA2102011192 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0340 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Five government delegates traveled to Mexico to take part in the talks with the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity]. This group consists of Brigadier General Mario Enriquez, General Marco Antonio Gonzalez Taracena, presidential adviser Ernesto Viteri Echeverria, Government Minister Fernando Hurtado Prem, and Manuel Conde Orellana, delegation chief and Presidency secretary general.

Conde refers to expectations that, after apparently bogging down during the last round of talks, discussion of human rights will continue.

[Begin recording] [Conde] To our way of thinking, after a lasting and durable peace agreement is signed, we see no reason why the particular topic of human rights ought to be discussed. We have discussed the possibility of a commission that could gather historic background data on human rights violations. We believe that what Guatemala needs at this time is peace and reconciliation. Guatemala can do without opening old wounds. Basically, these are the points that are pending for discussion

with the gentlemen of the URNG. We want to bring these points up again, with complete frankness, and to say that the two sides have been confronting one another all these years so we believe that it does the URNG no good to look back and open old wounds, because both sides have done much harm.

[Reporter] Will the government's ultimatum to the URNG have any effect?

[Conde] That is another topic we need to discuss. Under no circumstances is this an ultimatum. On the contrary, it is President Serrano's decisive action to hasten the peace process. You will recall that, just hours before the president's statement, the URNG issued a communique by one of its members or one of its top leaders in which the possibility of signing a peace agreement was described as an illusion. We can well understand that sometimes these things are said for political reasons, especially with a Geneva meeting now in the offing that will be a determining factor in Guatemala's image. In other words, perhaps the idea of describing as an illusion the signing of an agreement could make the URNG's political work abroad easier. However, we believe that we cannot say that the signing of a peace agreement is an illusion, when both sides are sitting at a table and working hard to reach that agreement. That is why President Serrano said that he allowed the guerrillas time to permit them to present their overall topics, with the government agreeing to reply to all URNG points in barely 15 days. We were sure that the URNG could be prepared because they could work on this full time, so by now they should have the material ready. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Government Representatives, Rivera View Conflict

PA2002201492 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Instigator Brooklyn Rivera met with government representatives at the Government Ministry's Silvio Mayorga Building, while Nicaraguan Airlines, Inc. [Aeronica] workers remain in jail for trying to improve the situation of the working class and for seeking ways to participate in the country's economic recovery through the enterprise privatization process, by holding 25 percent of Aeronica shares and contributing their labor.

It was reported on 19 February that Government Minister Carlos Hurtado, other government officials, and elements of the warmongering movement that alarmed and brought bloodshed to residents of the autonomous North Atlantic Region met to pave the way for negotiations to reestablish absolute peace in the region.

The Government Ministry reported on 19 February that the airport and the port at Puerto Cabezas were cleared by special Sandinist People's Army troops. The elements occupying the town of Waslala were evicted. The Army operation yielded 37 arrests, mostly of local residents. Two policemen died.

The arrested will be questioned 20 February to determine responsibility. However, it is quite clear that Brooklyn Rivera, the director of the Nicaraguan Institute for the Development of the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic Coast, is the main instigator and the culprit of the regrettable incidents that transpired in the Atlantic area.

Recompa Leaders Prevent Disarmament in Matagalpa

PA2102032592 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Feb 92 p 8

[Report by Celso Martinez O.]

[Text] San Ramon, Matagalpa— Individuals viewed as opportunists, who pretended to be commanders of recompa groups, prevented the disarmament of approximately 1,000 men that was scheduled for 16 February in this municipality.

The ceremony, which would have been attended by Government Minister Carlos Hurtado Cabrera, was to be the last mass demobilization of recompas in the presence of civilian and military authorities in the region, as well as local residents and special guests.

The recompas who were going to lay down their weapons were from Waslala, Rancho Grande, Pancasan, Rio Blanco, and Matiguas, under the leadership of "Richard," the recompas' chief of staff; "Raul;" "Damian;" and "Campeon."

In view of the position assumed by a few "recompas" who appeared overnight as leaders (staff members and commanders) in an attempt to get more money at the time of disarmament, approximately 300 recompas occupied several hills in the area, fearing a clash between dissident recompas and EPS [Sandinist People's Army] troops, who mounted a military operation on 16 February to safeguard the disarmament process.

The attitude assumed by the group of "opportunists" was not approved by Jose Gonzalez Picado, FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] political secretary, nor by San Ramon Mayor Nelson Artola Escobar, who said, "There is no reason why there should be recompas in this municipality, since there are no recontras here."

Meanwhile, military authorities from the EPS, from the police, and from the Special Disarmament Brigade, BED, decided to suspend the ceremony and prevent confrontation between those who wanted to lay down their weapons and those who did not.

By 2100 on 16 February, approximately 450 recompas had arrived in Matagalpa to deliver their weapons to the BED. The rest of the recompas were asked to change their attitude and travel to Matagalpa in buses provided by the BED and turn in their weapons.

Asked about the situation, Jose Gonzalez Picado, the highest FSLN representative in the northern region, said that he disagreed with the position assumed by the recompas who refused to deliver their rifles on 16 February, thus hindering the disarmament process in San Ramon. He added that it is impossible to hold talks with groups that resort to military blackmail.

San Ramon has been considered one of the municipalities with the largest armed population and where the largest number of Sandinist cooperatives were established.

Hurtado Discusses Details of Civilian Disarmament

PA2002184092 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Report by Ron Oliva]

[Text] The Government Ministry is working on the final details before commencing the civilian disarmament process, to be verified by the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification [CIAV] and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's observers. Government Ministry Carlos Hurtado said armed groups that existed until recently are no longer an excuse to keep cooperatives and other groups from surrendering their weapons.

Hurtado said that although the implementation of civilian disarmament procedures was set to begin this week, it was not possible because the disarming of recontras and recompas had not finished. The official explained the civilian disarmament procedures.

[Begin Hurtado recording, in progress] ...if it is still possible to begin this week. The municipalities will be in charge of implementing the procedures. We will begin with a few municipalities as a pilot plan. The CIAV and Cardinal Obando y Bravo's verification commission will participate, with the municipal security and disarmament commissions and the special disarmament brigades. They will receive and destroy the weapons. [end recording]

The official said the disarmament will be accompanied by a strong educational campaign.

[Begin Hurtado recording] We will have a relatively short phase, as planned, involving what we refer to as the voluntary surrender of weapons. It includes economic incentives. Here, we will be receiving the weapons. After this phase, we will begin to implement a more coercive operation. [end recording]

He stated the disarmament of armed groups has concluded but acknowledged that in Region 5 and the autonomous North Atlantic Region some small rebel groups have not surrendered. If they do not, the government and the Army will take the appropriate steps.

Sandinists Demand Release of Aeronica Workers

PA2102012192 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Feb 92 pp 1, 10

[Report by Carlos Garcia Castillo]

[Text] On 19 February, approximately 2,000 workers marched from the Sandinist Workers Federation headquarters to the Presidential Palace, across from which they erected "the hut of liberty" and demanded the release of the Aeronica Airlines workers still in prison at Loma de Tiscapa.

At the conclusion of the march, Lucio Jimenez, coordinator of the National Workers Front [FNT], announced that the Office of the Attorney General has released another three workers. Jimenez cautioned that the struggle will continue for as long as Luis Torres, secretary general of Aeronica Airlines, and Rene Vallejos and Leonardo Torres, remain in prison.

The FNT leadership has announced that, once all the workers are released, it will inform the government about the time and place where negotiations for the privatization of state enterprises may be reinitiated.

Meanwhile, the Presidency Public Relations Office has announced that President Violeta Chamorro, moved by "feelings of solidarity" with the suffering mothers and relatives of those arrested, has asked the Office of the Attorney General to act in "a very composed and benevolent fashion" in the case of the Aeronica prisoners.

On the evening of 19 February, the FNT leadership remained in permanent session to analyze the situation and to decide when to initiate already-announced partial strikes at state enterprises to secure the release of the arrested workers. Jimenez also announced that, on 25 and 26 April, there will be 23 federal congresses to discuss the current struggle strategy.

Jimenez noted that at the forthcoming FNT congress, the members will discuss "whether or not to make radical changes in the labor movement," depending on how government policies are viewed.

Panama

Endara: Recent Events Cannot 'Undermine' System

PA2102025792 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] President Guillermo Endara told reporters today that nothing is happening right now that could undermine the system of democratic government. He noted that there is constant speculation about alleged coup attempts, interventions announced by the Pentagon, the visit by U.S. Defense Secretary, and the constant meetings held by his political party that reiterate support for his work.

[Begin Endara recording] Everything is fine, there is no need to become alarmed. I would like... [pauses] You assume certain arguable facts, but I would just like to refer to one: We have evidence and coinciding testimony that former Colonel [Eduardo] Herrera did have lin[illegible] with these gentlemen [coup plotters]. We have convincing, very voluntary statements given under oath and in front of witnesses. These statements are overwhelming and were given well within the law. I am convinced that former Col. Herrera directed this plot from his home, which was where he was serving a jail sentence, a plot that we managed to abort—at least for the time being—from what we know.

Once again, to respond to your question, I can assure you that the country is doing very well, and there is no reason why we should fear what THE NEW YORK TIMES says—I have already referred to this—there is no reason to believe that Mr. Cheney's visit is a prediction of anything. He just made a courtesy visit to several countries, and he took advantage of the occasion to tell me a couple of things that you have all heard about through the press secretary.

The fact that I have met with my party should not be anything that surprises you. I can tell you that I often meet with my party, not as formally as we met this time, with all the directors, and so on. I belong to that party and subscribe to its ideology. I must say that we discussed many topics; however, the main purpose of the meeting was for me to receive a written report—the party members have traveled all over the country, and there were notes on each place visited and what the people had to say, especially about their many needs. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Comments on Cheney Visit

PA2002153892 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Feb 92 p 32A

[Article by Elio A. Rujano M.]

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's visit has been highlighted more than it deserves, as it was only a courtesy call on his part.

Cheney, who was in Panama 18 February, met with President Guillermo Endara for 14 minutes and reiterated the U.S. intention to comply with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties signed by both nations in 1977. The foreign minister said Cheney made a courtesy call, without an agenda, during which issues of bilateral interest had been discussed.

When questioned on the possibility of a new U.S. invasion of Panama, Linares said that, according to the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, the U.S. Armed Forces can only carry out military actions in case the canal is closed or if its operations are interrupted. In no other way, the minister added, can any kind of military action be taken against Panama.

On 17 February, THE NEW YORK TIMES published a Pentagon report on a possible U.S. military intervention in Panama should the government be toppled with the aid of Colombian guerrillas and drug traffickers. The Pentagon identified Panama as one of the seven places in the world where an armed intervention could be necessary. This invasion could take place from now until the year 2,000, the date the Torrijos-Carter Treaties specify U.S. troops should pull out of Panama.

Described as 'Courtesy Call'

PA2002154092 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Feb 92 p 1A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] Those who live in the past tried to give the visit by U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney a meaning it did not have, starting on a false premise: the United States is interested in maintaining its military bases here beyond 2000. It would be worth asking why. The pretexts that could be used to keep them have vanished in the political cataclysm that eliminated the Cold War.

Modern weapons have turned military bases into historic oddities. There is nothing the United States can do in Central and South America from Panama that it cannot do with equal efficiency and speed from a Florida base. That country has not renounced its geopolitical interests in the region, but it sees no need to defend them using archaic resources. For that reason, it has closed an untold number of bases on and outside its own territory. Nothing one says or does here is going to alter the superpower's decision on the matter. It is shameful that Panamanians, out of political calculations or to defend high paying jobs, should demand that U.S. bases stay beyond 2000. It is equally depressing that Panamanians should be demanding the return of what we are going to get back anyway. Let us be prudent realists. Cheney's visit to President Guillermo Endara lasted 14 minutes; it was a courtesy call. No serious matter could have been discussed in that time.

Argentina

Minister Orders Frigate Readied for Persian Gulf

PY2002130092 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1227 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Feb (TELAM)—This morning Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez said the contingent of Argentine troops to Yugoslavia "will be financed by the United Nations" and explained that "this organization is empowered to assemble a 'peacekeeping corps' and collect funds for this kind of operation."

Regarding the possibility of sending troops to the Persian Gulf, the minister explained that further information has been requested concerning the financing of this operation.

In a statement to a radio station, Gonzalez admitted, however, that "orders have been issued to ready a frigate" that could participate in the blockade ordered by the United Nations "after it detected movements that could pose a new risk for regional peace."

President on Economic Policy, Human Rights

PM2002153092 Paris LE FIGARO in French 14 Feb 92 p 4

[Interview with President Carlos Menem by Irene Jarry in Strasbourg, France on 11 February]

[Text] [Jarry] Sir, when you were elected in March 1989 you were regarded as Juan Domingo Peron's heir. However, your new free market economic policy, your rapprochement with the United States, the recent announcement of the opening of files on Nazis who took refuge in Argentina, are all initiatives which are totally opposed to Peronist doctrine. Does this not present problems in Peronist ranks?

[Menem] No, none. There is an erroneous interpretation of Peronism, mainly in Europe. People talk about it without knowing it. I represent a modernized, updated Peronism. In the recent by-elections, the Peronists won even more seats in parliament. This proves that I am moving in the right direction.

Politicians who obstinately implement an unchanged doctrine are doomed to failure. Not only for themselves but also for the countries which they govern.

I can give you examples of these vital developments. In Spain, Felipe Gonzalez is a socialist, but his current policy is not completely in accordance with his socialist doctrine. The same is true of President Mitterrand. We are now living in a world in which capitalism is vital, but a humanized capitalism according to the words of His Holiness John Paul II: "Capital serves the economy, and the economy serves the people."

[Jarry] This is the first time that you have made an official visit to France—the country which was the leading investor in Argentina last year. What do you expect this visit to achieve?

[Menem] Relations between France and Argentina are excellent. This official visit will further improve and strengthen those relations. A number of big French enterprises are candidates for the coming privatization of Argentinian companies, and we will discuss that.

[Jarry] In April 1991, when Argentina seemed doomed to inflation, general poverty, and a constant increase in its debt, your government put forward a new plan to restructure the economy. It worked perfectly. What is Argentina's present position? Is it a good partner once again?

[Menem] This economic recovery plan had already been outlined during the election campaign. Before implementing it, we already had to assess the country's exact position, because it was a plan which necessitated very far-reaching reforms which could not be implemented overnight. We needed some time, but we have been feeling the effects for several months now. Overcoming high inflation is not easy. We have fallen from more than 200 percent per month in July 1989 to between 1.5 and 2 percent per month now. In 1992, we will reactivate the economy. We will end the privatization of loss-making state enterprises.

The international bodies have recognized the value of our economic policy. We have obtained a loan from the World Bank, stand-by credit from the IMF, and the United States has announced Argentina's admission on the terms of the Brady plan.

[Jarry] To achieve these good results, you had to take measures whose social effects were very tough for the poorest people. How long do you think it will take for this section of the population to see an improvement in its standard of living?

[Menem] This year, we will move on to the second aspect of our program after stabilization; we will develop the education, healthcare, security, and justice sectors. The Argentinian population is already starting to benefit from ecnomic recovery. What all these people want more than anything is to work. We have reduced unemployment rate from 12 percent to 5 percent. The social costs to which you refer virtually no longer exist in Argentina. We are already having problems in finding labor.

[Jarry] Is that why you offered to welcome East European refugees?

[Menem] Yes. Argentina is a huge country—2.8 million square kilometers—inhabited only by 33 million people. It is almost virgin country, still not developed to any great extent. We need to increase our population not only directly through a higher birthrate, but also indirectly through immigration. In agreement with the EEC,

we want to open up a channel of immigration from Europe, and especially from Eastern Europe.

[Jarry] After a seven year break in relations with Britain following the Malvinas war, diplomatic relations were restored in 1989. But the Malvinas problem has not been solved. Do you still intend to recover the islands and if so how?

[Menem] By dialogue. There are two ways of waging war—one is the one which we tried in 1982—we saw the result, neither Argentina nor Britain won—and the other way is based on discussion. That is the path which we chose. Many countries support us.

[Jarry] Another difficult period for the Argentinians is the dictatorship from 1975 to 1983 and its consequences. In Buenos Aires every Thursday, the mothers of missing persons stand outside the presidential palace demanding information and accusing the government of giving an amnesty to the military responsible for the torture and disappearances.

[Menem] They are free to demonstrate. Nobody stops them. The "pardon" which was granted to the military accused of human rights violations during the dictatorship restored peace to Argentina. That was necessary.

[Jarry] In France, human rights associations are angry at the freedom enjoyed by Captain Astiz, who is thought to be responsible for the death of two French nuns. What answer can you give them?

[Menem] In Argentina we fully respect human rights. Argentina is a democracy and, as in any democracy, there is a division of power. Captain Astiz is at liberty as a result of a decision taken by the legal authorities which took a decision which we must respect. There is not a country in the world where there have not been similar cases—Franco's Spain, Japan's relations with China, Pinochet's Chile, and France after World War II. At all events, a pardon was granted. A country cannot exist and cannot make progress in hatred, resentment, and a desire for vengeance.

[Jarry] According to the Argentinian press, the results of your first years as president are very varied: On the one hand there is the country's recovery; on the other a series of scandals linked to your private life, drug trafficking, and corruption. Do you intend to do something to change that image?

[Menem] This is the product of a certain taste for sensationalism. As Felipe Gonzalez so rightly puts it, "opinion which is published is one thing, public opinion is another." All the opinion polls carried out in Argentina in recent months give us more than 70 percent of the votes. That is my answer to the scandals. What happens is that this government is acting like no other government before it. During my election campaign, I said that Argentina was a country invaded by a corruption that we were going to fight energetically. That is what we are doing. Like everywhere else, there are cases of corruption but we are not living in a corrupt system. We are not hiding anything at all.

Brazil

Cheney Discusses Nuclear Technology, Drugs

PY2002130892 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney has said that the United States is satisfied with Brazilian plans not to use nuclear technology to manufacture atomic weapons. Cheney also said his government is pleased with the Brazilian decision to reduce its missile exports. Dick Cheney met with President Fernando Collor and the military ministers in Brasilia.

[Begin reporter Antonia Marcia Vale recording] Richard Cheney spent 19 February in Brasilia, where he met with President Fernando Collor; General Antonio Veneu, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff; Army Minister Carlos Tinoco; Aeronautics Minister Socrates Monteiro; and Navy Minister Cesar Flores. One of the topics of discussion during the meeting was drug trafficking and its impact on producing countries, on countries—such as Brazil—that are used as drug trafficking routes, and on consuming countries. Cheney made a point of showing that the Armed Forces contribute to the antinarcotics fight in the United States. He said that, together with the Brazilian Government, the U.S. Government plans to conduct a similar fight in Brazil; however, he has not brought any proposal for action or financial help.

Army Chief of Staff General Antonio Moreira has asserted that it is improbable that the Brazilian Armed Forces will join a direct antidrug fight because, constitutionally, this is a Federal Police task and the Armed Forces have no financing for it. [end recording]

'Text' of President Collor's Message to Congress

PY2002171792 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Feb 92 p 8

["Text" of message sent by President Fernando Collor de Mello to Congress on 17 February]

[Text] Messrs. Congressmen:

I wish to ratify my respect and appreciation for the National Congress of which I had the honor of being a member, following the example of my father and my grandfather.

I stated when I assumed power that I would need the permanent cooperation of Congress, which is "the source of law and the mirror in which the peoples' opinions are reflected, whose independence, anywhere, is the pawn of liberty and the proof that democracy prevails."

I come before you to account for the current state of Brazilian history, the government's work, the challenges that lie ahead of us and the justified hope with which we face these challenges.

Messrs. Congressmen:

Last year, 1991, was difficult for the Brazilian people. The struggle against inflation required that the government be firm and inflexible in maintaining rigid monetary and fiscal austerity so that we could drastically cut public expenditures.

It would be nice if there were a painless formula to curb the inflationary process. Many countries, even some neighboring countries, are clear examples, however, that those sort of miracles do not happen.

Discipline and sacrifice are required to defeat inflation. I know that our people do not have happy memories of other occasions when our leaders asked for sacrifices. Nevertheless, we must establish the differences between the past and the present.

In the past our leaders were installed without the approval of the great majority of the citizenry. Today, the president of the Republic is the true representative of the peoples' will.

In the past, government projects and policies were drawn up regardless of what political or social leaders, or society as a whole, thought about them. Today, things are quite different: Everybody adopts a position, gives an opinion, participates.

In the past the executive branch acted as it chose. The legislative and judicial branches were paralyzed. Today the three constituted branches enjoy a true balance: Each one fulfills its respective duties.

Therefore, when my government asks for sacrifices, it is only citing the effort needed to attain the objectives set by society itself.

In economics, like in our daily activities, nothing happens magically: Before owning a house comes the sacrifice of saving up to buy it and the work of those who built it; Before enjoying growth one needs to make investments, to work, to produce more; Before investing one needs the necessary conditions such as stability and safety, and a good chance of making a profit.

One of these necessary conditions is the elimination of inflation because, beside seriously harming the more neglected Brazilian people, it condemns the country as a whole to stagnation and, consequently, to poverty.

Inflation seriously worsens our social problems, increases distortions, worsens injustices, and frays the morale of society as a whole because it encourages quick and easy measures and easy profits, jeopardizing the value of labor and austerity.

During the first months of my administration we managed to get rid of the threat of hyperinflation. Now that we have overcome that phase, we are implementing an economic policy that removes alarm and consolidates domestic and foreign confidence, placing Brazil on the path to modernity.

In every nation that has reached full development, economic agents throughout history had the guarantee that the rules of the game would not be changed overnight. Predictability, aside from the normal ups and downs of the market, is a basic requirement for the success of any economy.

Among the negative points of state interventionism in Brazil were the problems that resulted from the constant arbitrary changes in the economic rules by the public power. The definitive winding up of these measures and the reestablishment of a tranquil market were the major economic victories in 1991.

Many analysts have written about the events that occurred late in October 1991 when strong speculative movements suggested that the government should resort to a sort of new economic package to prevent a new hyperinflation. No package was launched and there was no inflation because the government adopted a firm, coherent, and calm attitude. As one can say now, we faced the threatening ghost of uncontrollable inflation without resorting to deceitful measures such as economic shocks or interventions to allegedly save the day. Thanks to the position we adopted, a trend to stabilize the inflation began despite the liberation of almost all prices and the real adjustment in public utilities rates.

This is not the only progress made last year: The government managed to maintain the balance between revenues and public expenditures; the privatization process defeated those who opposed it, gained the support of society, and five enterprises were privatized; the government and the private sector began jointly to support of production, quality, and competitiveness of our industries; Congress passed the first stage of the tax reform; and the Informatics Law consolidated the opening of our economy, ending the market reserve in the sector.

Economic agents are beginning to clearly realize that the government is going in the right direction and that it will continue to do so until the end. The stabilization of the inflationary process is, in a way, the result of the return of peoples expectations.

International predictions for Brazil have also improved: Favorable statements by governments and private institutions have increased and foreign investments are again returning to Brazil because few economies in the world offer such advantageous prospects. The progress made in renegotiating the foreign debt, especially the recent approval by the IMF of the letter of intent submitted by the Brazilian Government, show that confidence has been regained.

I promised the country that I would strive for economic stabilization, the normalization of relations with the international financial community, and the resumption of development. The major objectives of my government include reducing social inequality and assuring better education, health, security, and more dignity for Brazilians. The Integrated Centers for Assistance to Children, are a concrete response to this challenge, revealing the priority concern of my government to meet our social debt.

It is obvious that the government can do nothing by itself. It will need the understanding and the support of the entire society, especially workers, businessmen, and political leaders.

We have always been aware that this was the great challenge facing Brazilian redemocratization: to elect a president who would adopt harsh measures to overcome the crisis and thus return hope to the people. It did not matter who was elected, he had the moral obligation to implement the required measures because the nation's fate was at stake.

Special reference should be made to the role of my government's foreign policy for the consolidation of our credibility before the international community. Some of the accomplishments of the continuous and permanent work of Brazilian diplomacy that deserve special attention are: the signing of the Common Market of the South Treaty, Mercosur; the signing of the Rose Garden Agreement by Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay—the Mercosur members—with the United States; the Brazilian-Argentine agreement for the exclusive use of nuclear energy for peaceful means; and the safeguard agreement signed jointly by Brazil and Argentina with the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency]. I would also like to mention the effort we made for the political and logistical preparation of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio-92, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June.

Congressional support for these and other diplomatic efforts is very important. Regarding the Rio-92 conference, senators and deputies should join the government and the social organizations in the task of mobilizing Brazilians for one of the greatest events in the history of our international participation, which is also a decisive moment for humanity. What is really at stake is life on earth. The conference will be an opportunity for the world to think about a new development model capable of taking us into the third millennium with good prospects for eradicating poverty and reestablishing harmony between mankind and nature.

Congressmen: It is only right to recognize that the government has done a great deal despite limited resources, the problems created by the international situation, and the resistance of certain groups within our society. We work hard and with determination to carry out our plans and we never fail to point out the need for collective debate on great national problems as the only way to reach real solutions. The executive branch has, above all, shown democratic and legitimate leadership.

Brazil is going through a decisive moment in its history; a moment involving the strengthening of political activity and the desire for a thorough renewal of its institutions, instruments, and goals. At this crucial time the exercise of political leadership demands courage, responsibility, and use of reason.

No progress can be made without politics. The people should understand that, in democracy, politics is one of the most important and challenging human activities because through politics freedom was built, and force, wealth, and knowledge were harmonized to finally establish real justice. Politics is above all the art of articulating collective will from positions that are basically different.

It is necessary and urgent in Brazil to modernize our politics. We must establish an effective co-responsibility between the government powers, a confluence of major interests going beyond local interests, easy solutions, and fisiologism [a term coined by President Collor to describe the status quo that allows government bureaucrats to take advantage of the cumbersome government apparatus for personal gains].

We need to give the nation a clear signal that we are all working for a better Brazil. This is the meaning of the power entrusted to me as president of the Republic and to your excellencies as representatives of the people and of the states in the national Congress. We are legitimate representatives of the people's desire to change the face of this country, and this is what we must do.

Every deputy, senator, and union or labor leader is compelled to meet local, regional, and sectorial interests; but the day has come when the leadership must be invested with a major sense, a national sense. Every area of society should seek the best way to minimize the crisis with balance and patriotism.

Today more than ever we can see the truth in [Brazilian writer] Rui Barboza's saying that "it is not always possible to serve the fatherland without serving fellow party members." In other words, the upcoming municipal election campaign should not affect the austerity we have implemented to recover the economy.

No one should harbor illusions. As I have already stated, problems will persist until society democratically decides on what, how, and how much it wants. There is an increasing consensus on the basics of our modernization project and now we have to adopt the measures and instruments to implement them.

The state as a whole, and the executive branch in particular, faces obstacles in the struggle to eradicate vices and deep-rooted structures and to revert age-old problems like the serious social situation, the red tape that hinders the productive system, and the patrimonial system which still prevails in the management of public affairs.

There is, however, clear and positive evidence that Brazil is beginning to modernize its economic and political system. My election can be interpreted as an unequivocal demonstration of this situation. I had no other means to convince the electorate than through a message designed to reestablish the authority, to modernize our economy, to reformulate the role of the state, and to build a coordinated, just, and democratic society.

When I came to power, the legislative branch understood the country's critical situation and approved the measures I proposed to control hyperinflation. The facts have proven the need to adopt those measures. After almost two years in power, I am trying to show Congress ways to make changes through several specific proposals and a reiterated call for dialogue. I have never sought an agreement for support, but I have always proposed objectives, means, and ways to modernize Brazil.

Three proposals during 1991 proved this unshakable willingness to become modern and develop an improved democracy; The proposal to debate the Project of National Reconstruction; the constitutional reform package that was submitted to the National Congress; and the publication of the main points of the social-liberal ideology as tools for the collective construction of an Agenda for Consensus. Each of these initiatives, which complement and support each other, belong to a specific political moment. The so-called Big Project identified the bureaucratic bottlenecks, the obsolete procedures, and the institutional archaisms, and proposed a broad spectrum of measures to modernize the country. It is noteworthy that various measures mentioned in the document have already been approved, and various other measures are in an advanced stage of discussion at the National Congress.

The government's constitutional reform package suggests a reexamination of constitutional norms and principles, seeking a more dynamic angle from which to take advantage of international investments, trade, and technological currents; the removal of monopolies harmful to the national interest; and the creation of juridical tools for transfer or appeal, a measure of public interest for speedier solutions, in exceptional situation, to legal issues that cannot remain undefined or subjected to contradictory interpretation by the various levels of the judicial branch.

Last, and to wrap up the efforts of the government to define the essential guidelines of the modernization project, I called a debate to elaborate an Agenda for Consensus in order to extend the decision-making process above sectorial, specific, or local interests and to create a broad democratic participation through which to elaborate a true national project.

Congressmen:

We are nearing the date in 1993 for a plebiscite on the system of government that will be installed in the country. It is essential for Congress to contribute to the debate in order to clarify all aspects and to show the way toward a conscientious decision.

This should be a year for consolidating and strengthening the Brazilian peoples' aspirations. In order to accomplish this, it is essential for Congress to discuss and approve the bills that were presented for its consideration. The executive and legislative branches must share in the decision-making process and seek agreements, looking always at how best to serve the national interest. Political dialogue is the key to progress.

For myself, I have given clear signals—through draft bills, an ideological discussion on social-liberalism, and even through changes in my cabinet—that I am ready to explore all paths of possible understandings with Brazilian political forces.

As I said a year ago in my message to Congress, the legislative branch must decisively participate in achieving a national understanding; it has more than enough jurisdiction and legitimacy, and I believe it does not lack commitment.

God will continue to help us.

Collor Signs Decree To Prevent Fraud in Biddings

PY2002190292 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Feb 92 p 6

[Excerpts] Brasilia—President Fernando Collor yesterday signed a decree creating three new instruments to prevent fraud and privileges in federal government biddings. They are: The Unified Catalogue of Materials, the Integrated System of Price Registration, and the Unified System of Suppliers, which will be adopted in 180 days, when they will be placed at the disposal of administrators through a teleprocessing network that already exists in federal organizations and offices. [passage omitted]

The presidential decree also defines a series of regulations to prevent breaches similar to those found in several irregular biddings, such as the ones that occurred in the Health Ministry and other public organizations. The decree makes it mandatory to immediately investigate irregularities and to send the appropriate disciplinary measures to the courts, which will begin penal actions against them. "Unless this is done, in addition to the other civil and penal penalties applicable to the case, the responsible person or organization will be tried for sloppiness or negligence," the text of the new decree states.

The person in charge of the bidding also must report any suspicion of complicity to the Justice Ministry's SNDE [National Economic Right Secretariat] "for a thorough investigation of the facts." [passage omitted]

Chile

Pinochet Touring Units, Unable To Meet Cheney

PY2102121092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Army Commander in Chief General Augusto Pinochet is visiting the First Army unit and the First and Fourth Army Division headquarters. The objective of the visit, which will last 10 days, is to check the degree of isolation [as heard] of each unit, and the implementation of activities planned by the high command.

The commander's agenda is being kept secret for security reasons, and in order to make surprise inspections.

Army sources have confirmed that Pinochet's tour of northern Chile was scheduled some time ago and it will be impossible for him to attend a meeting that the commanders of the Armed Forces, Defense Minister Patricio Rojas, and the Carabineros commander will hold with U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, who will arrive in Chile today.

It was reported that Pinochet will be represented at the meeting by Army Deputy Commander in Chief Lieutenant General Jorge Lucar.

Reportage on Status of Former GDR's Honecker

Aylwin Sends Message

PY2002145492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1414 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 20 Feb (EFE)—Chilean Embassy sources today confirmed to EFE that Chilean President Patricio Aylwin has sent a message to his Russian counterpart, Boris Yeltsin, asking him to allow former GDR President Erich Honecker to travel to Chile.

Chilean Ambassador in Moscow Clodomiro Almeyda conveyed Aylwin's message to Boris Kolokolov, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, on 19 February.

The Chilean diplomat also asked the Russian Government to allow Honecker, who is suffering from terminal cancer, to receive medical care outside the Chilean Embassy in Moscow, where Honecker sought shelter on 11 December 1991.

On 19 February, Chile's diplomatic mission in Moscow issued a communique explaining that the attitude of the Chilean Government toward Honecker's situation is "humanitarian."

Germany is demanding that the former GDR leader be extradited and accuses him of being responsible for the death of 198 people who died trying to cross the Berlin Wall.

Aylwin Denies Request

PY2002215292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2055 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Santiago, 20 Feb (EFE)—Chilean President Patricio Aylwin denied today that he sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin to intercede in the case of former GDR leader Erich Honecker.

Honecker took refuge in the Chilean Embassy in Moscow on 11 December 1991.

Aylwin clarified, however, that he gave instructions to his ambassadors in Russia and Germany to express the Chilean Government's concern over the health of Honecker, who is suffering from terminal kidney cancer.

Aylwin said the possibility should be considered for "Honecker to travel to Chile, not for asylum, but to visit his family."

Honecker's daughter Sonia, 40, has lived in Santiago since 1988 with her Chilean husband and two children.

Aylwin explained that Honecker may travel to Chile but without excluding the possibility that "Germany may submit a request for extradition," as already anticipated by Bonn.

Aylwin, who returned to Santiago today after vacationing in the southern part of the country, admitted that he exchanged letters with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on this issue.

Aylwin said it is possible that after being informed in detail of the situation and talking with Chilean Ambassador to Moscow Clodomiro Almeyda he may phone Kohl in Bonn.

Chilean Ambassador to Germany Carlos Hunneus met yesterday with German Foreign Ministry officials to convey the Chilean Government's desire that Honecker travel to Santiago "for humanitarian reasons."

The fact that Honecker is terminally ill with cancer has made Chile change its position. Chile was opposed to Honecker's travel because he did not have a valid German passport and because he had to face legal charges against him.

German courts demand that Honecker be handed over to be tried for the deaths of 198 East Berliners between 1961 and 1989 as they tried to cross the wall.

Further on Aylwin Remarks

PY2102115092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Excerpt] President Patricio Aylwin has denied news agency reports that state he sent a letter to Russian chief of state Boris Yeltsin asking him to authorize former German leader Erich Honecker to leave Moscow. He explained that he instructed the Chilean ambassadors in Russia and Germany to convey the Chilean Government's

concern over Honecker's condition, and to consider the possibility of allowing Honecker to travel to Chile.

[Begin Aylwin recording] No, I did not send any letter. I instructed our ambassadors in Russia and Germany to convey the Chilean Government's concern over Mr. Honecker's condition, and to submit for consideration the possibility that he may come to Chile—not as a refugee but to meet his family—without precluding the German Government's right to request his extradition. This request will be processed in keeping with the law. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Honecker To Receive Care

PY2002164692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The governments of Russia and Chile agreed today to adopt the necessary measures to provide adequate medical care to former GDR President Erich Honecker. This was reported in a communique released by the Chilean Embassy in Moscow. The communique does not specify when or how the care will be provided. The decision to give Honecker medical treatment was made during a meeting between Chilean Ambassador Clodomiro Almeyda and Boris Kolokolov, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister.

The communique states that the Russian Government has expressed its understanding and willingness to honor the Chilean request, which is humanitarian in nature in view of Honecker's state of health. [passage omitted]

Honecker Still on Premises

PY2002193192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1837 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 20 Feb (EFE)—Through an official communique, the Chilean Embassy reported today that former East German leader Erich Honecker has not left the Chilean Embassy in Moscow.

The communique, which was issued at 1800 GMT, adds: "It is not true that Erich Honecker has left the Chilean Embassy in Moscow."

Unofficial sources had reported that the former GDR president had left the Chilean Embassy where he sought refuge in December.

Chilean Ambassador to Moscow Clodomiro Almeyda on 19 February requested that Honecker be transferred to a hospital because his health had deteriorated. Honecker has terminal cancer.

Russians Accept Hospitalization

PY2102011292 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry confirmed this afternoon that Erich Honecker is still in the Chilean Embassy in Moscow. It also was reported that the Russian Government reportedly has accepted in principle that Honecker be transferred from the embassy to a medical center. But the transfer has not yet been made because the officials are waiting for the appropriate time to do it. This means that officials still are searching for a clinic or hospital to hospitalize him under the necessary security measures.

The Chilean Embassy in Moscow only confirmed a meeting between Ambassador Clodomiro Almeyda and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov in a communique read by Jose Miguel Cruz, counselor of the Chilean Embassy in Moscow.

[Begin Cruz recording] Ambassador Almeyda explained the Chilean Government's concern over the delicate health situation of Erich Honecker and asked Russian officials to do their best to accept the reasonable request in a humanitarian light. The Russian Government representative expressed his understanding and goodwill to consider the request. The two officials also agreed to take the necessary steps to get adequate medical treatment for Honecker. [end recording]

The German Government reiterated that Honecker must appear before German courts to answer for the death of 192 people who tried to escape to the West during his government.

Chilean Ambassador to Germany Carlos Hunneus told the German press that the Chilean Government is not interfering in German internal affairs. In an interview given to Spanish television, Hunneus said that the position adopted by President Patricio Aylwin is only of a humanitarian nature and responds to the feelings of a large part of the Chilean population.

Germany Reiterates Position

PY2102014892 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] German Ambassador to Chile Wiegand Pabsch said today that his government maintains its position of requesting that the Chilean and Russian Governments hand over Erich Honecker in order to put him on trial for the death of 200 people who tried to escape over the Berlin Wall when he was the leader of the former GDR.

[Begin recording] [Pabsch] We told the two governments that the German Government does not oppose any medical treatment for Honecker in a clinic in Moscow with the understanding that this would not distort or obstruct our petition. We also said that under no circumstance would the German Government allow Honecker's transfer from Chile to a third country.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you mean when you say Germany will not allow the transfer?

[Pabsch] It means that we do not accept it. [end recording]

Ambassador Pabsch said Germany counts on the word of the government of Boris Yeltsin that it will not allow Erich Honecker to leave Russia. He also was asked about the Chilean position that a humanitarian solution and not a political or legal solution should be found to this problem.

[Begin recording] [Pabsch] I cannot see why a medical treatment for humanitarian reasons needs Honecker's transfer to Chile. I believe that there are also good doctors in Russia and this is why we believe that there is no reason for his transfer to Chile.

[Reporter] But his relatives are here.

[Pabsch] Yes, but he also has relatives in Germany, but he does not want to go to Germany. [end recording]

The German ambassador said Honecker has no reason to fear for his safety. He said the only fear he should have is that if he does not get medical treatment in time his condition will deteriorate. He added that German officials value relations with Chile, and they hope that those relations will always remain like that. He added that this depends on mutual understanding.

Colombia

FARC Reportedly Involved in Execution Order

PA2102013792 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 15 Feb 92 p 11-A

[Text] State security bodies have disclosed that they have proof that Manuel Marulanda Velez, alias Tirofijo, ordered the execution of Daniel Garcia, the man who represented the guerrillas in talks with certain Colombian businessmen in Santa Fe de Bogota.

According to a report disclosed over the past few hours, Raul Reyes, a member of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] General Secretariat, during a conversation with Tirofijo informed him that Daniel Garcia had been acquitted by a revolutionary council, but the top FARC leader disagreed with the decision and ordered Garcia's execution.

Daniel Garcia has been missing since 6 February. The last person he contacted was Horacio Serpa Uribe, the presidential adviser on peace affairs, with whom he had scheduled a meeting on 7 February. Radio Cadena Nacional announced that Garcia disappeared on that same day, 7 February.

So far state security bodies have not reported the reappearance, either dead or alive, of Daniel Garcia, the FARC representative who established contact with certain Colombian businessmen with a view toward finding ways to achieve peace in Colombia.

It has been reported that the authorities have as part of their evidence a tape recording of the meeting during which Raul Reyes informed Tirofijo that Daniel Garcia had been acquitted and the guerrilla leader ordered his execution.

Daniel Garcia is a longtime member of the FARC and his true name is Carlos Munevar Barreto.

Seven charges were filed against Garcia and he was acquitted of all of them.

The members of the FARC Central General Staff Secretariat's revolutionary council who prosecuted and acquitted Daniel Garcia were: Alfonso Cano, Raul Reyes, and Timoleon Jimenez.

"There is a recording and the voices on it are unquestionably those of Tirofijo and Raul Reyes," the report stated.

Daniel Garcia is known both nationally and internationally as the man who established contact with clandestine weapons dealers to acquire war materiel for the Colombian subversives.

He is implicated in the investigation that the Colombian authorities are currently conducting with regard to a shipment of 10 tons of weapons for FARC that were seized in Jamaica enroute from Portugal.

Peru

APRA Officials Discuss Future of Party

PA2002161392 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Report on interview with American Popular Revolutionary Alliance, APRA, Senator Jose Barba Caballero, Deputy Freddy Gillard, and Secretary General Alan Garcia by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] Using his well-known argumentative manner, APRA Senator Jose Barba Caballero has stated that his party will return to populism, statism, and bureaucratism under the leadership of Alan Garcia. APRA Deputy Freddy Gillard revealed a number of irregularities at the last APRA congress.

[Begin recording] [Barba] Alan Garcia as APRA secretary general and a natural Aprista leader is one thing, but his political proposal is quite another. We understand this proposal to mean: populism, statism, and personalism. Such a proposal is not an Aprista one. It is a personal proposal and, furthermore, is part of a painful history of defeat.

I am convinced that it is possible for APRA to have a future and regain the trust and respect of Peruvians if Alan Garcia and the National Executive Committee abandon their primitive and antihistorical banners. Obviously, if this does not occur, we will go directly to the ghetto, become a sect with a tribal spirit, and further a marginal society. This would be regrettable and very painful for Aprista.

[Reporter] Does APRA have a chance in the 1985 elections with Alan Garcia as candidate?

[Barba] I believe that Alan Garcia will give Aprista guidance, direction, and presence but much will depend on the changes he is willing to make.

Currently, all the Peruvian political sectors, including my party, are discredited and are largely responsible for the serious situation in our country.

Political parties cannot start to think about candidates if they are not able to change their concepts, frameworks, actions, participation, and are not able to become liaisons between Peru and development. This is obviously because Peruvians will continue to vote for independent candidates. At least independent candidates come to power alone; not like party candidates who bring thousands of bums and undocumented, mediocre people who only bring corruption to government. These events and experiences cannot be repeated ever again.

[Reporter] Why were you not accredited to enter the APRA congress?

[Gillard] Our credentials were not accepted. The same thing happened to Luis Alba Castro. His credentials as a true delegate and acting secretary general were not accepted. That is why he did not attend the APRA plenary congress.

[Reporter] What percentage of APRA delegates were not accepted and were unable to attend the congress?

[Gillard] Surely, the congress organizing committee will render its report on the matter.

In any case, we are not questioning the leadership of companion Alan Garcia. We are discussing the procedures used for elections. The congress, however, is autonomous and made the decision—even though not at the most appropriate moment—to elect through applause. Some of us believed it would have been better to use direct votes. [end recording]

Now we will hear the other side. Alan Garcia said the APRA, under his leadership, will be a true and effective party in opposition to the current government. He said as secretary general he will lead the party with maturity, without repeating past mistakes.

[Begin Garcia recording] We have to get rid of certain labels that have been pinned on us. For example, statism. It is said repeatedly that APRA is statist. APRA did not form a single state firm. The 230 firms were formed by the military government and were continued by the Fernando Belaunde regime. So it is a bit unjust to call APRA statist.

It is also unjust to call APRA populist. This means it always proposes to spend more revenue than it receives from fiscal resources. It means that APRA maintains an unbalanced budget to attend to popular needs. I do not believe APRA is populist. It is a people's party that will never stop defending the people but will not incur fiscal disorder. If it did so in the past, it will not do so again.

We are rational, honest human beings who have the right to correct mistakes and to continue the things we did right. People only mention the bad things about the APRA government. It is never highlighted that we did many good things for the peasants. We implemented many infrastructure repairs. We installed electricity lines all over the country. We built big projects such as Sachimochico, Terminal Charcani, Carguajero, Gallito Ciego, Quequetepeque San, and dozens of others that are never mentioned.

[Reporter] Did APRA members really fervently want you as secretary general again after you quit your candidacy or did you believe it was the right time to launch your 1995 campaign?

[Garcia] I believe the time is right to lead the party with responsibility, maturity, and with the experience gained in five years in government and two years of persecution and insults.

I believe the time is right to organize a true opposition to defend the country from the excessive way we are currently paying the foreign debt, for which Peruvians are making a very big sacrifice. I believe it is time to defend the country and curb the dramatic reduction of wages and production. I believe that before we think of 1995—God knows what Peru will be like in 1995—we have to think of the present. We have to think of how we will fare in 1992.

I believe times of great effort and hard work are at hand for our party. Because of circumstances or our mistakes, we split from an important segment of our country. We have two main objectives at present; to mobilize a true, active, and reasoned opposition to the government and to evaluate past events, measure mistakes made, and propose the necessary corrections. [end recording]

Peasant Patrols Reportedly Commit Excesses

PY2002231292

[Editorial Report] Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on 9 February in its Sunday Section on pp 13-14 publishes a 400-word article in stating that Quinua District Lieutenant Governor Felix Gutierrez Coras went to Lima in January to make several charges in the murder in the past nine months of 24 local peasants by members of the Peasant Defense Patrol, an organization formed by the Army to fight subversion. Gutierrez said: "The Army also is involved in these murders considering that it coordinates the actions."

The newspaper states that this is not the first time that Peasant Defense Patrol members have committed excesses, and "the problems have become even worse with the government's decision to give them weapons." According to figures released by the Defense Ministry and the Senate Special Commission on Violence, more

than 190,000 armed Peasant Defense Patrol members reportedly are spread throughout Peru.

The newspaper adds that according to Enrique Obando, an expert on security and defense matters from the Peruvian International Studies Center, "the situation turns out to be dangerous if no control is exerted on the weapons used by Peasant Defense Patrol members." He says that Army personnel should be maintained in each community to control the weapons and to ensure that they are used against subversives and not to attack neighboring communities. He adds that bad peasant patrol members should be sanctioned to prevent increasing criminal actions and to prevent the situation from getting out of control.

Obando also notes the important role of peasant patrol members in the Mantaro Zone, where they managed to expel Shining Path terrorists from the central valley, and where they were no clashes between peasants. He stresses the need to train soldiers for the antisubversive struggle and to prevent them from committing robberies or excesses, as is currently happening. He mentions as a good example the case of General Luis Perez Documet, chief of the Mantaro Zone Joint Command, who delivers not only weapons but food to the people. He sends soldiers to conduct civic activities and shares his time with the people. This policy has rendered excellent results because they managed to expel Shining Path terrorists from the area. Obando finally suggests that the Armed Forces maintain antisubversive bases with mobile units in different zones to assist Peasant Defense Patrol members when a community is attacked by Shining Path terrorists.

Uruguay

Central Bank Denies Gold Contraband, Laundering

PY1802141292 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] In a communique issued yesterday, the Central Bank of Uruguay states that there is no contraband gold in our country because the entry, sale, and export of precious metals is completely free.

The Central Bank also rules out the possibility of laundering capital of illegal origin through gold operations.

The communique states that the Central Bank has reviewed gold exports in the wake of reports indicating that our country was a possible center for contraband and money laundering through this metal.

The communique states that there is no contraband gold in Uruguay because the entry, domestic operations, and export of foreign exchange and precious metals is completely free under the law.

The Central Bank makes it clear that gold operations, the entry of gold in our country, its stay, and its export, are completely legal.

Military Intelligence Directorship Law Implemented

PY2002173292 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 13 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] Uruguayan President Luis A. Lacalle has implemented the law through which the directorship of the military intelligence service [Defense Intelligence General Directorate] must rotate between the three Armed Forces branches and not be occupied exclusively by the Army, as has been the case so far.

According to the Amnesty Law (No. 15848), the director of the aforementioned service should be a general or higher-ranking officer and "rotation between the three branches (...) should be implemented at the rate of two-year terms in office for each branch."

In keeping with this law, the president issued a decree on 11 February setting forth the "sequence for the rotation of Armed Forces branches in the Defense Intelligence General Directorate, which is Army, Navy, and Air Force."

Venezuela

Perez Expresses Willingness To Combat Corruption

PA2002200092 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez expressed the government's willingness to embark on an all-out struggle against corruption. The president reported this decision at a news conference in Merida, during a visit to the Uribante-Caparo Dam to restart work. Here is President Perez:

[Being Perez recording, in progress] ...that the community is indicating that this is a country of crime and of criminals. It is necessary for us to face this problem decisively. The government, the political parties, and Congress must join to make a profound transformation of the judicial system. There is no doubt that the judicial system has been influenced by the political parties. These are truths that must be clearly stated now. The political parties must be the first to demonstrate their desire for the judicial system to act completely independently of the political parties. At the same time, the government must demonstrate that the struggle against corruption is not only rhetoric but reality and that we are truly scrutinizing and revising methods and procedures that have given way to corruption.

In the private sector this practice has also been going on. You cannot pretend to put all the blame on one side. In the private sector, in companies, when contracts are signed, corruption has always existed. Some fortunes can not be easily explained. Well, we will just have to deal with this problem up front. [end recording]

Bomb Deactivated at U.S. Chamber of Commerce

PA2102015192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2220 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Caracas, 20 Feb (EFE)—Venezuelan authorities have announced that experts from the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services (DISIP) on 20 February deactivated an explosive device at the headquarters of the Venezuelan-American Chamber of Commerce (Venacham). No details were disclosed with regard to the power or composition of the device, which was discovered inside a food and beverage cooler by a custodian .

Members of the chamber pointed out that since the thwarted military coup on 4 February, they have received several anonymous telephone calls announcing the placement of bombs.

The DISIP evacuated the Chamber of Commerce headquarters, which is on the 10th floor of a building in the eastern part of Caracas, and the Colombian consular offices on the floor above.

Central Bank President Submits Resignation

PA2102015892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Venezuelan Central Bank President Pedro Tinoco formally submitted his resignation to President Carlos Andres Perez during the cabinet meeting held on 20 February.

The president of the Central Bank went to the Miraflores Palace in the afternoon of 20 February to officially announce his decision to the president. He explained that, in January, he had hinted at his wish to the president. Besides, the hardest parts of the economic policy have already been implemented, he added.

[Begin recording] [Tinoco] The president has consistently stated his intention to maintain the same basic guidelines on the economy. These guidelines have yielded satisfactory results thus far.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think Miguel Rodriguez would do the same.

[Tinoco] I think Rodriguez has done an excellent job in this government.

[Reporter] When do you expect to leave the Central Bank.

[Tinoco] That depends on the president. [end recording]

Asked whether Miguel Rodriguez, current coordination and planning minister, would be his replacement, the president of the Central Bank said he did not have that information, but that Rodriguez would do a good job in that office.

* AD, COPEI Consider Electoral Reforms

92SM0238B Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 17 Jan 92 Section 1 p 13

[Article by Carmen Carillo]

[Text] AD [Democratic Action] and COPEI [Social Christian Party] reportedly have arrived at a virtual agreement concerning the method for the selection of town councillors. The plan is a kind of variation of the German mixed system.

This system, used for the selection of congressional deputies and senators, allows for the election of half of the legislators by the single name method and the other half by list.

The variation for town councillors establishes that 66 percent be elected by single name jurisdictions and 33 percent by the list method.

This serves to reconcile two mutually exclusive principles: direct representation and representation of minorities.

Summing up the proposals for a reform of the Suffrage Law, AD proposed the selection of town councillors by means of the single name method, pure and simple.

Since COPEI and MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] rejected this system, Luis Pinerua Ordaz proposed the single name system within electoral districts, but also spoke of the election of a town councillor by quotient.

Gustavo Tarre Briceno, chief of the COPEI legislative group, indicated that the idea was a good one, but to make the method more precise it would be preferable to apply a kind of cascade effect.

This meant that an alderman would be elected for councils that had up to seven representatives, two aldermen for municipal governments with up to 11 councillors and three aldermen for those with more than 13 councillors.

COPEI then reportedly proposed the variation of the German mixed method but in the Venezuelan style, and the method is now under study.

Election by the Grass Roots Will Be the Exception

Entering into internal affairs, AD is studying plans for the selection of candidates for mayors and governors.

There are three proposals. The first would be by the mediated consultive method, with the participation of bodies such as district directive committees or sectional directive committees, which would make the decision.

The second would be with the participation of bodies superior to the district or sectional committees, such as the CEN [National Executive Committee], for example, where decisions as to which candidate to support would be made.

And the third would be done in back rooms or small meetings where it would be decided which candidates the AD would present for municipalities and governorships.

But these three systems have the disadvantage that they do not permit an aggressive policy of alliances.

Sources in AD contend that the party does not want to go back to the system of back room or arbitrary selection of candidates, although they admit that in the bosom of the national leadership some leaders see this as the obvious method.

The reason put forward is that this method would avoid the internal fights caused by elections at the grass roots.

In conclusion, the AD will try to retain the freedom to form alliances and election at the grass roots will be the exception.

AD points out that if COPEI used this method and suffered no problems from lack of democracy, the AD will settle the question of selections by means of a system that leaves no wounds.

They Are Indefinite Absences

As for the absences of Antonio Ledezma from the Political Secretariat and of Mabelly de Leon-Ponte from the Secretariat of Professionals and Technicians, a new term has been coined. These are indefinite absences.

They are not permanent because the absentees will return to the CEN when they leave their government positions, but the absences cannot be called temporary either because when the absentees will return is unknown.

Also under discussion is whether the absences are to be offset, respecting the quota of the factions (Ledezma, renovationist, and Mabelly, orthodox) or whether, as some want, to apply a leveller with the orthodox faction filling both positions by voting majority.

Hector Alonzo Lopez, renovationist, proposed in the latest CEN meeting that each vacancy be filled according to faction, as was done on the occasion when he was absent for two years, because besides being a member of the National Executive Committee he was elected secretary general of the AD in Merida.

According to soundings of opinion, the party believes that this solution would be preferable.

There are many renovation candidates for the opening. Of the 30 candidates on the renovation list for the National Convention only two were selected, so that there are 28 potential candidates.

In the orthodox faction, besides the 15 in the bureau of professionals and technicians there are many more aspirants because, with the election of Luis Perez, first as secretary for municipal affairs and then as national secretary for organization, the person who replaced him in municipal affairs was not precisely a candidate of the municipal bureau.

When Ledezma and Leon-Ponte impose social order and the social programs are working, then they will return to fill their posts and the substitutes will leave, according to sources.

The CEN will determine who will replace temporarily Ledezma and Leon-Ponte.

Appointments

According to sources in AD, Timoteo Zambrano will be the new secretary of government for Antonio Ledezma, Governor of Caracas.

Zambrano, initially a member of the Canachista faction and now more closely identified with alfarist orthodoxy, will be sworn in on the afternoon of January 17, 1992.

Luis Aquiles Moreno will replace Rafael Quiroz in the Secretariat of the Senate and according to reports David Morales Bello will return to the Presidency of the Senate.

On Monday, January 20, the CEN of the AD will name the new presidents for the next sessions of the legislative assemblies to be installed on Thursday, January 23.

The assemblies will designate the candidates for the legislatures of Bolivar, Miranda, and Nueva Esparta, among others.